

In the Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A telephony switch comprising:

a switching fabric;

a first interface adapted to connect the switching fabric to a packet fabric;

a computing module operatively associated with the switching fabric and the first interface and capable of establishing calls through the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric, the computing module adapted to:

receive a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint;

based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint, determine a select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric through which to establish the call; and

establish the call through the select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric, wherein when at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints is coupled to the packet fabric, the call is established in part by sending a message to one of the at least one of the originating and the terminating endpoints to instruct the one of the at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

22. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 21 further comprising a second interface adapted to connect the switching fabric to a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

23. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 22 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are coupled to the PSTN, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the switching fabric.

24. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 23 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are both coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the packet fabric.

25. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 24 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric via the first interface.

26. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 25 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the computing module is adapted to establish the call through the packet fabric and the switching fabric via the first interface.

27. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 21 wherein the computing module is further adapted to receive the call request via a signaling network.

28. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 27 wherein the signaling network is a common channel signaling network.

29. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module is further adapted to establish an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

30. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 29 wherein the first interface is further adapted to support the inter-working bridge across the switching fabric.

31. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 30 wherein the first interface is further adapted to generate an application instance for the inter-working bridge.

32. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 21 wherein the computing module comprises a signaling interface coupled to the packet fabric, the signaling interface adapted to receive call

signaling messages from and send call signaling messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

33. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module operates to minimize the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

34. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 22 wherein the computing module is further adapted to formulate and send fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.

35. (Currently Amended) A telephony switch comprising:
means for interfacing a switching fabric in the telephony switch to a packet fabric;
means for establishing calls through the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric comprising:
means for receiving a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint;
means for determining a select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric through which to establish the call based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint; and
the means for establishing further adapted to establish the call through the select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric, wherein when at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints is coupled to the packet fabric, the call is established in part by sending a message to one of the at least one of the originating and the terminating endpoints, thereby instructing the one of the at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

36. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 35 further comprising a means for interfacing the switching fabric to a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

37. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 36 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are coupled to the PSTN, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the switching fabric.

38. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 37 wherein when the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint are both coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the packet fabric.

39. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 38 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric via the first interface.

40. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 39 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the means for establishing the call establishes the call through the packet fabric and the switching fabric via the first interface.

41. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 35 wherein the means for receiving the call request receives the call request via a signaling network.

42. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 41 wherein the signaling network is a common channel signaling network.

43. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 36 wherein means for establishing the call is further adapted to establish an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled

to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

44. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 43 wherein the means for interfacing the switching fabric to the packet fabric is further adapted to support the inter-working bridge across the switching fabric.

45. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 44 wherein the means for interfacing the switching fabric to the packet fabric is further adapted to generate an application instance for the inter-working bridge.

46. (Currently Amended) The switch of claim 35 wherein the means for establishing the call further comprises a means for communicating with the packet fabric, wherein the means for communicating with the packet fabric is adapted to receive call setup messages from and send call setup messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

47. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 36 wherein the means for establishing the call operates to minimize the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

48. (Previously Presented) The switch of claim 36 wherein the means for establishing the call is further adapted to formulate and send fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.

49. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint through a hybrid switch capable of establishing calls through a switching fabric, a packet fabric, and a switching fabric and a packet fabric, the method comprising:

interfacing a switching fabric in the telephony switch to a packet fabric and a public switched telephone network (PSTN) using a first interface;

receiving a call request for establishing a call between an originating endpoint and a terminating endpoint;

determining a select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric through which to establish the call based on the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint; and

establishing the call through the select one of the switching fabric, the packet fabric, and the switching fabric and the packet fabric;

wherein when at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints is coupled to the packet fabric, establishing the call comprises sending a message to one of the at least one of the originating and the terminating endpoints, thereby instructing the one of the at least one of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the establishing step comprises establishing the call through the packet fabric.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the receiving the call request step comprises receiving the call request via a signaling network.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises establishing an inter-working bridge across the switching fabric for the call when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises receiving call setup messages from and sending call setup messages to the originating endpoint, the terminating endpoint, or the originating endpoint and the terminating endpoint through the packet fabric.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step minimizes the number of calls established through the switching fabric and the packet fabric.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the establishing the call step comprises formulating and sending fabric control messages used to establish virtual connections in the packet fabric for transferring bearer traffic associated with the call when the originating endpoint, terminating endpoint, or the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric.

59. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein the packet fabric is a backbone network.

60. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein when both the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is further adapted to send a

message to one of the originating and the terminating endpoints, thereby instructing the one of the originating and terminating endpoints to communicate with the other of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

61. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the computing module is further adapted to send a message to the terminating endpoint, thereby instructing the terminating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

62. (New) The switch of claim 21 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the computing module is further adapted to send a message to the originating endpoint, thereby instructing the originating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

63. (New) The telephony switch of claim 35 wherein the packet fabric is a backbone network.

64. (New) The telephony switch of claim 35 wherein when both the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing calls is further adapted to send a message to one of the originating and the terminating endpoints, thereby instructing the one of the originating and terminating endpoints to communicate with the other of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

65. (New) The telephony switch of claim 35 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, the means for establishing calls is further adapted to send a message to the terminating endpoint, thereby instructing the terminating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

66. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, the means establishing calls is further adapted to send a message to the originating endpoint, thereby instructing the originating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

67. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the packet fabric is a backbone network.

68. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein when both the originating and terminating endpoints are coupled to the packet fabric, establishing the call further comprises sending a message to one of the originating and the terminating endpoints, thereby instructing the one of the originating and terminating endpoints to communicate with the other of the originating and terminating endpoints to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

69. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric, establishing the call further comprises sending a message to the terminating endpoint, thereby instructing the terminating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.

70. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein when the originating endpoint is coupled to the packet fabric and the terminating endpoint is coupled to the PSTN, establishing the call further comprises send a message to the originating endpoint, thereby instructing the originating endpoint to communicate with the first interface to enable communication for the call through the packet fabric.